

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 3 remain in the application and have been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 2 and 3 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Although applicant respectfully maintains that Fig. 2A shows the television receiver being connected to the channel audio signals, claim 2 has been amended to recite first and second switching means, shown at 21 and 22 in Fig. 2A, wherein the speakers of the portable housing are connected to the digital surround decoder by the first switching means 22 and the speakers of the television receiver are connected to the digital surround decoder by the second switching means 21.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as presently amended are clearly described in the specification and shown in the drawings.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 2 and 3 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

As noted hereinabove, claim 2 has been amended hereby to recite first and second switching means so that it becomes more clear how the speakers of the television receiver are connected to the audio signals, as well as connecting the speakers of the portable housing to the outputs of the digital surround decoder.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims

are clear and definite in their recitation of the present invention and meet all requirements of 35 USC 112.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over the so-called admitted prior art in view of Gefvert and further in view of Endoh et al.

As previously noted, the present invention provides a flexible surround sound system employing a portable auxiliary device that has three speakers arranged as a center channel and left and right speakers. The main feature of the present invention is the portability, as shown in Fig. 2B, for example, that permits the utilization of a surround sound or home theater sound reproducing system without disassembling the television receiver installation. In other words, the portable housing can be moved from room to room to interact with different television receivers in the different rooms in the home. Furthermore, the recording and reproducing means is also arranged in the portable housing, so that a DVD could be played back, for example, on any television receiver in the home and the user can enjoy the benefits of the surround sound.

It is respectfully submitted that contrary to the examiner's assertion, Fig. 6A does not show a portable housing. As explained in the specification, the previous systems all were hard wired into the television apparatus and typically installed in the rack or cabinet in which the television receiver was located. There is nothing in the specification to suggest that the recording and reproducing

apparatus main body 3 of Fig. 6A is a portable unit and, in fact, as will be seen from Fig. 6B the television receiver is incorporated into that apparatus main body 3.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the so-called admitted prior art is fatally defective concerning rendering obvious the present invention, because nothing is suggested therein of the portable housing having center and left and right speakers, as well as containing the recording and reproducing apparatus.

Gefvert is cited for its showing of a center speaker arranged in the housing. Nevertheless, the housing contemplated by Gefvert is simply a speaker cabinet and not a portable housing having left and right speakers that are separably attached to the portable housing containing the center speaker. Moreover, Gefvert does not suggest the inclusion of the recording and reproducing means in the portable housing.

As previously noted, Endoh et al. relates to a system for downmixing five-channel sound for use in a two-channel system. Accordingly, the examiner points to some switching networks that are provided to accomplish the desired down-mixing.

Nevertheless, Endoh et al. does not suggest having first and second switching means, wherein the second switching means is used to supply channels from the digital surround decoder to the speakers of a television receiver, while at the same time using other outputs from the decoding means to be switched to speakers employed in a portable housing as taught

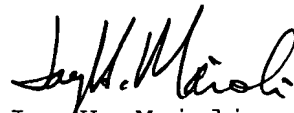
by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a multichannel acoustic signal reproducing apparatus employing a portable housing that may be moved from room to room and employed with various television receivers located in the home, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references, alone or in combination.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" and last name "Maioli" clearly distinguishable.

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM:tb